

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 4:51:41 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

Go. It's 1pm.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Aug 26, 2019, at 12:26 PM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Do we want to send this by Henry as well?

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Andrea Woods <woods.andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

Ok changes made and good to send. Any other edits below?

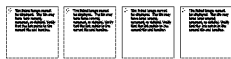
From: EPA Press Office <press@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

EPA Pushes Back on *The Hill's* Sexist Attack on EPA Employee

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

<!--[if !vml]--><image002.png><!--[endif]-->



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Unsubscribe](#)



Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 3:54:57 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

Ok.

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 26, 2019, at 11:51 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Ok, I'll just change it to rejoining a government agency with the state.

From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

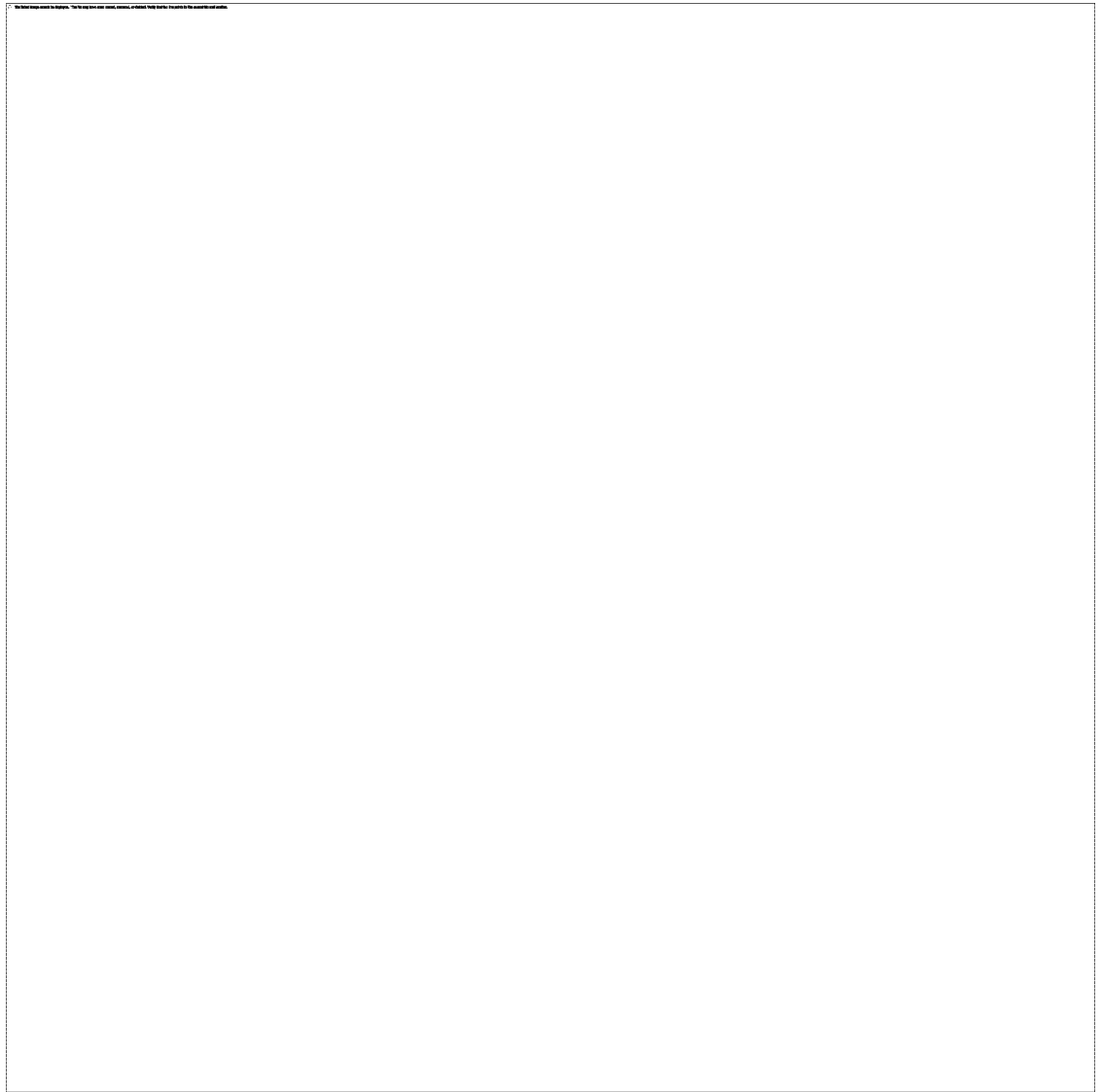
I'm not sure she's rejoining the Arizona DEQ. I think it's another state agency.

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 26, 2019, at 11:44 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

How about now?

From: EPA Press Office <press@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:43 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee - Preview

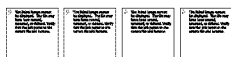


EPA Pushes Back on *The Hill's* Sexist Attack on EPA Employee

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

<image001.png>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Unsubscribe](#)

 Like

 Tweet

 Share

 Forward

Message

From: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 3:23:59 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: The Hill Publishes Sexist Article Ignoring Comment From EPA - Preview

This is not a controversial couple. Nor did they work on controversial issues. I think **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

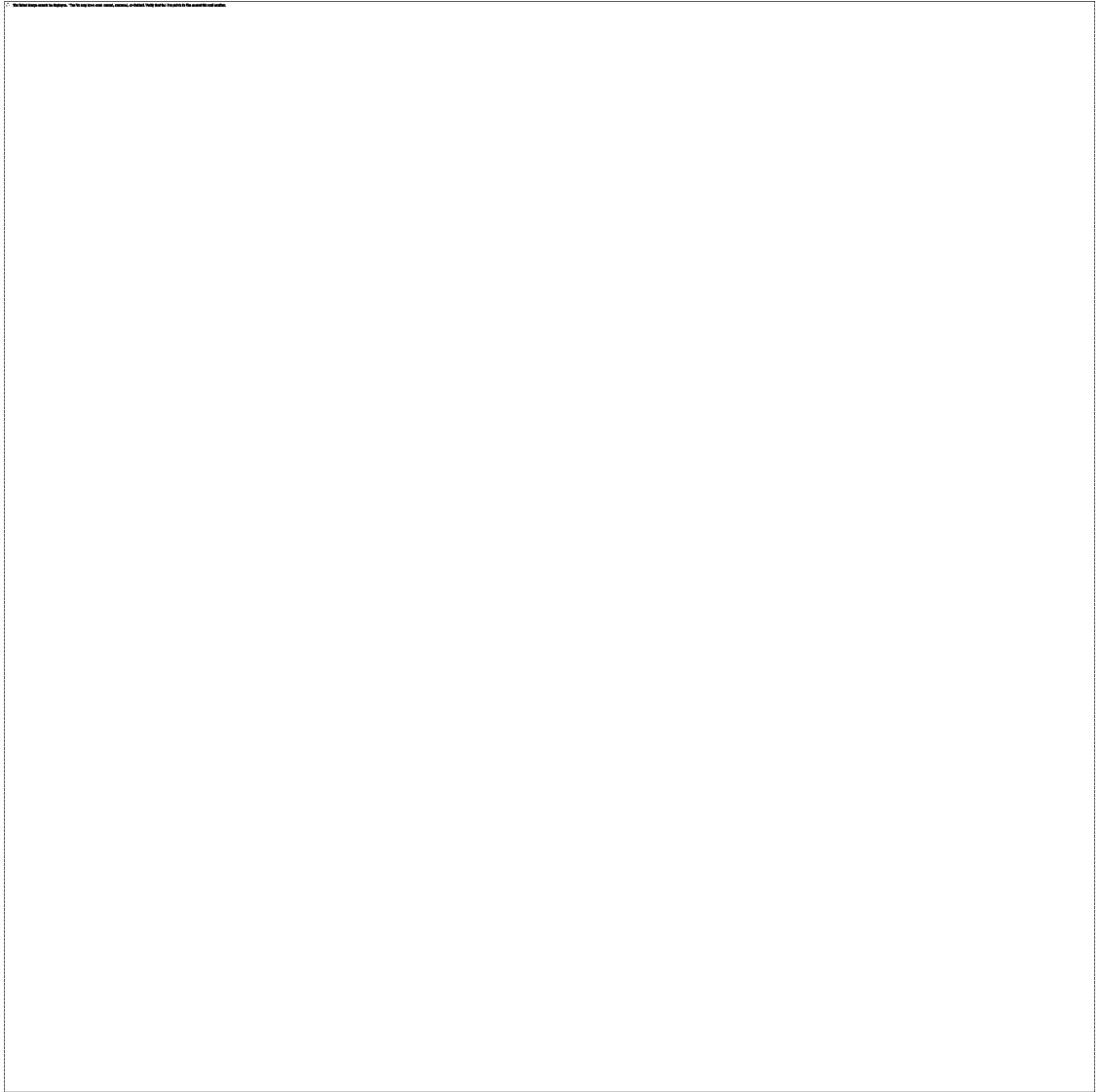
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 26, 2019, at 11:18 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

So this is something we put together in response. Although Miranda just emailed back and added more of my quote and changed "life experience" to "professional experience." This may be more moot now.

From: EPA Press Office <press@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:15 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: The Hill Publishes Sexist Article Ignoring Comment From EPA - Preview



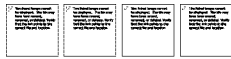
The Hill Publishes Sexist Article Ignoring Comment From EPA

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

<!--[if !vml]--><image001.png><!--[endif]-->



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004



[Unsubscribe](#)

Message

From: Miranda Green [mgreen@thehill.com]
Sent: 8/26/2019 3:16:38 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
CC: Timothy R. Homan [thoman@thehill.com]; Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Michael,

I believe your quote and the details I added provide necessary context about her background, her experience is not being disputed. However, I've gone back and added in your full quote to show her experience that you mentioned. If there are any corrections to be made about her experience that I have written, please let me know.

The controversy, as first reported by ABC over a year ago, stems from the circumstances from her hiring as requested by her husband.

"The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management," references the timeline. As she was indeed hired after her husband to work at EPA. If you would like to offer a clarification to that timeline, let me know.

Thanks,
Miranda

On Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 10:44 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Miranda come on. Previously working at EPA and working for a state department of environmental quality is certainly more relevant than "life experience." I've attached her resume above. You still have yet to explain what was controversial about their tenure. I would also like to reiterate that you failed to change their sexist comment included in the original article.

When contacted, EPA did not provide details about the nature of the departures. An EPA spokesperson later hailed Veronica Darwin's 18 years of life experience "working extensively on environmental waste issues."

From: Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:35 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Timothy R. Homan <thoman@thehill.com>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Michael,

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. The response I received from EPA initially Friday did not provide further comment in addition to Wheeler's letter, which I had already quoted from. I have however, changed the language in the piece to make it more clear that EPA did provide comment. Additionally, I just added in the work background on Veronica Darwin that you provided. You can find the updates here: <https://www.thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington?rnd=1566829932>

Thanks,

Miranda

On Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 9:26 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Miranda this is ridiculous to frame Veronica and Henry as "controversial." I originally saw this headline and assumed you were quoting some activist group. But upon further review and seeing nothing of the sort, I assume it is The Hill's own bias stepping in and filling the void. The Darwin's have helped advance the mission of the Agency and the Trump Administration.

I'm also asking that you remove this sexist comment below: "The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management."

Veronica Darwin has spent more than 18 years working extensively on environmental waste issues that included roles as a compliance officer at EPA's Region 9 office (7 years) and as deputy division director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Waste Divisions Program (total of 8 years). To only refer to her as Henry's wife does a disservice to Veronica, but the incredible work she has done her whole career.

Also we provided you a response 5 minutes after your original email, what is this nonsense?

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:13 AM

To: AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO_OPA_Ind_News_Clips@epa.gov>

Subject: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

The Hill

"Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington>

Miranda Green

A controversial husband and wife political duo is leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) D.C. office after nearly two years working there during the Trump administration.

Henry Darwin and his wife Veronica will leave Washington and return to their home state of Arizona, EPA head Andrew Wheeler wrote in an internal announcement sent to staff Friday afternoon obtained by The Hill.

Henry Darwin joined EPA as chief of operations under former Administrator Scott Pruitt and was promoted to deputy administrator under Wheeler last July. While negotiating his job at EPA in May 2017, Henry Darwin also pitched a role for his wife, who he called a "legitimate environmental professional," according to internal emails obtained by ABC.

"It would help our financial decision immensely," Darwin wrote to EPA Chief of staff Ryan Jackson in the email. "If not out of the question, I would be happy to forward her resume and references (which I would suggest you check - everyone loves her almost as much as I do)."

The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management. Pruitt later came under fire for using his position at EPA to try to get jobs for close acquaintances, including a clerking internship for his daughter at the White House and a job for his wife opening up a Chick-fil-A franchise.

Wheeler in his email Friday said Henry Darwin will be stepping down from his role and will once again take the title of assistant deputy administrator at EPA. In the role he will "concentrate on the deployment of EPA's Lean Management System (ELMS)" which he will do from Arizona. "Given the amount of time he already spends traveling to the regional offices to deploy ELMS, his relocation to Phoenix should not impact his ability to help us become even more effective in carrying out our very important mission. In addition, Henry will be here at headquarters on a regular basis," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler announced Veronica Darwin left the agency on Aug. 9. "While at EPA, Veronica managed implementation of the Superfund Task Force recommendations, and led other Administrator priorities like

children's health, and the development of the action plan for lead. These key initiatives will remain Administrator priorities, however Veronica's leadership will be greatly missed," wrote Wheeler.

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

Melissa A. Sullivan

Public Liaison Specialist

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202 564 4318

Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

--

Miranda Green

Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill

202-999-0660

mgreen@thehill.com

[@mirandacgreen](#)

--

Miranda Green

Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill

202-999-0660

mgreen@thehill.com

[@mirandacgreen](#)

Message

From: McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 1:30:11 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

NICE.

From: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>; Timothy R. Homan <thoman@thehill.com>
Cc: Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Miranda this is ridiculous to frame Veronica and Henry as "controversial." I originally saw this headline and assumed you were quoting some activist group. But upon further review and seeing nothing of the sort, I assume it is The Hill's own bias stepping in and filling the void. The Darwin's have helped advance the mission of the Agency and the Trump Administration.

I'm also asking that you remove this sexist comment below: "The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management."

Veronica Darwin has spent more than 18 years working extensively on environmental waste issues that included roles as a compliance officer at EPA's Region 9 office (7 years) and as deputy division director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Waste Divisions Program (total of 8 years). To only refer to her as Henry's wife does a disservice to Veronica, but the incredible work she has done her whole career.

Also we provided you a response 5 minutes after your original email, what is this nonsense?

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:13 AM
To: AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO_OPA_Ind_News_Clips@epa.gov>
Subject: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

The Hill

"Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington>

Miranda Green

A controversial husband and wife political duo is leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) D.C. office after nearly two years working there during the Trump administration.

Henry Darwin and his wife Veronica will leave Washington and return to their home state of Arizona, EPA head Andrew Wheeler wrote in an internal announcement sent to staff Friday afternoon obtained by The Hill.

Henry Darwin joined EPA as chief of operations under former Administrator Scott Pruitt and was promoted to deputy administrator under Wheeler last July. While negotiating his job at EPA in May 2017, Henry Darwin also pitched a role for his wife, who he called a "legitimate environmental professional," according to internal emails obtained by ABC.

"It would help our financial decision immensely," Darwin wrote to EPA Chief of staff Ryan Jackson in the email. "If not out of the question, I would be happy to forward her resume and references (which I would suggest you check - everyone loves her almost as much as I do)."

The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management. Pruitt later came under fire for using his position at EPA to try to get jobs for close acquaintances, including a clerking internship for his daughter at the White House and a job for his wife opening up a Chick-fil-A franchise.

Wheeler in his email Friday said Henry Darwin will be stepping down from his role and will once again take the title of assistant deputy administrator at EPA. In the role he will "concentrate on the deployment of EPA's Lean Management System (ELMS)" which he will do from Arizona. "Given the amount of time he already spends traveling to the regional offices to deploy ELMS, his relocation to Phoenix should not impact his ability to help us become even more effective in carrying out our very important mission. In addition, Henry will be here at headquarters on a regular basis," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler announced Veronica Darwin left the agency on Aug. 9. "While at EPA, Veronica managed implementation of the Superfund Task Force recommendations, and led other Administrator priorities like children's health, and the development of the action plan for lead. These key initiatives will remain Administrator priorities, however Veronica's leadership will be greatly missed," wrote Wheeler.

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

Melissa A. Sullivan
Public Liaison Specialist
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202 564 4318
Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B6F5AF791A1842F1ADCC088CBF9ED3CE-ABBOUD, MIC]
Sent: 8/26/2019 2:45:41 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan (Braun) [Jahan_Wilcox@braun.senate.gov]; Block, Molly [molly_block@ios.doi.gov]; Hewitt, James O [HewittJO@state.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi (Ernst) [Kelsi_Daniell@ernst.senate.gov]
Subject: FW: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"
Attachments: Veronica Darwin Resume 2016.doc

Just another day at EPA.....

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:45 AM
To: Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>
Cc: Timothy R. Homan <thoman@thehill.com>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Miranda come on. Previously working at EPA and working for a state department of environmental quality is certainly more relevant than "life experience." I've attached her resume above. You still have yet to explain what was controversial about their tenure. I would also like to reiterate that you failed to change their sexist comment included in the original article.

When contacted, EPA did not provide details about the nature of the departures. An EPA spokesperson later hailed Veronica Darwin's 18 years of life experience "working extensively on environmental waste issues."

From: Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:35 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Timothy R. Homan <thoman@thehill.com>; Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Michael,

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. The response I received from EPA initially Friday did not provide further comment in addition to Wheeler's letter, which I had already quoted from. I have however, changed the language in the piece to make it more clear that EPA did provide comment. Additionally, I just added in the work background on Veronica Darwin that you provided. You can find the updates here: <https://www.thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington?rnd=1566829932>

Thanks,
Miranda

On Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 9:26 AM Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Miranda this is ridiculous to frame Veronica and Henry as "controversial." I originally saw this headline and assumed you were quoting some activist group. But upon further review and seeing nothing of the sort, I assume it is The Hill's

own bias stepping in and filling the void. The Darwin's have helped advance the mission of the Agency and the Trump Administration.

I'm also asking that you remove this sexist comment below: "The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management."

Veronica Darwin has spent more than 18 years working extensively on environmental waste issues that included roles as a compliance officer at EPA's Region 9 office (7 years) and as deputy division director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Waste Divisions Program (total of 8 years). To only refer to her as Henry's wife does a disservice to Veronica, but the incredible work she has done her whole career.

Also we provided you a response 5 minutes after your original email, what is this nonsense?

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:13 AM
To: AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO_OPA_Ind_News_Clips@epa.gov>
Subject: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

The Hill

"Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington>

Miranda Green

A controversial husband and wife political duo is leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) D.C. office after nearly two years working there during the Trump administration.

Henry Darwin and his wife Veronica will leave Washington and return to their home state of Arizona, EPA head Andrew Wheeler wrote in an internal announcement sent to staff Friday afternoon obtained by The Hill.

Henry Darwin joined EPA as chief of operations under former Administrator Scott Pruitt and was promoted to deputy administrator under Wheeler last July. While negotiating his job at EPA in May 2017, Henry Darwin also pitched a role for his wife, who he called a "legitimate environmental professional," according to internal emails obtained by ABC.

"It would help our financial decision immensely," Darwin wrote to EPA Chief of staff Ryan Jackson in the email. "If not out of the question, I would be happy to forward her resume and references (which I would suggest you check - everyone loves her almost as much as I do)."

The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management. Pruitt later came under fire for using his position at EPA to try to get jobs for close acquaintances, including a clerking internship for his daughter at the White House and a job for his wife opening up a Chick-fil-A franchise.

Wheeler in his email Friday said Henry Darwin will be stepping down from his role and will once again take the title of assistant deputy administrator at EPA. In the role he will "concentrate on the deployment of EPA's Lean Management System (ELMS)" which he will do from Arizona. "Given the amount of time he already spends traveling to the regional offices to deploy ELMS, his relocation to Phoenix should not impact his ability to help us become even more effective in carrying out our very important mission. In addition, Henry will be here at headquarters on a regular basis," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler announced Veronica Darwin left the agency on Aug. 9. "While at EPA, Veronica managed implementation of the Superfund Task Force recommendations, and led other Administrator priorities like children's health, and the development of the action plan for lead. These key initiatives will remain Administrator priorities, however Veronica's leadership will be greatly missed," wrote Wheeler.

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

Melissa A. Sullivan

Public Liaison Specialist

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202 564 4318

Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

--

Miranda Green

Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill
202-999-0660
mgreen@thehill.com
@mirandacgreen

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B6F5AF791A1842F1ADCC088CBF9ED3CE-ABBOUD, MIC]
Sent: 8/26/2019 2:04:23 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
CC: Woods, Andrea [Woods.Andrea@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; McFaul, Jessica [mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov]; Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Just talked with one of her editors although he didn't work on this particular story. They are going to call me back in 15 with the actual editor. Will let you know what they say. I'll start drafting up a factcheck in the meantime.

From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

He did lean and had a staff of careers working with him and still does.

She worked on lead, PFAS coordination, children's health, and superfund program improvements.

Real controversial.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Aug 26, 2019, at 9:34 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Included him on the chain. Will call him now.

From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Woods, Andrea <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Call her editor.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Aug 26, 2019, at 9:28 AM, Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov> wrote:

Just an FYI.

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Miranda Green <mgreen@thehill.com>; Timothy R. Homan <thoman@thehill.com>
Cc: Andrea Woods <woods.andrea@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; McFaul, Jessica <mcfaul.jessica@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

Miranda this is ridiculous to frame Veronica and Henry as "controversial." I originally saw this headline and assumed you were quoting some activist group. But upon further review and seeing nothing of the sort, I assume it is The Hill's own bias stepping in and filling the void. The Darwin's have helped advance the mission of the Agency and the Trump Administration.

I'm also asking that you remove this sexist comment below: "The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management."

Veronica Darwin has spent more than 18 years working extensively on environmental waste issues that included roles as a compliance officer at EPA's Region 9 office (7 years) and as deputy division director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Waste Divisions Program (total of 8 years). To only refer to her as Henry's wife does a disservice to Veronica, but the incredible work she has done her whole career.

Also we provided you a response 5 minutes after your original email, what is this nonsense?

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

From: Sullivan, Melissa <sullivan.melissa@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 9:13 AM
To: AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO_OPA_Ind_News_Clips@epa.gov>
Subject: The Hill: "Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

The Hill

"Controversial Husband and Wife EPA Duo to Leave Washington"

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/458605-controversial-husband-and-wife-epa-duo-to-leave-washington>

Miranda Green

A controversial husband and wife political duo is leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) D.C. office after nearly two years working there during the Trump administration.

Henry Darwin and his wife Veronica will leave Washington and return to their home state of Arizona, EPA head Andrew Wheeler wrote in an internal announcement sent to staff Friday afternoon obtained by The Hill.

Henry Darwin joined EPA as chief of operations under former Administrator Scott Pruitt and was promoted to deputy administrator under Wheeler last July. While negotiating his job at EPA in May 2017, Henry Darwin also pitched a role for his wife, who he called a "legitimate environmental professional," according to internal emails obtained by ABC.

"It would help our financial decision immensely," Darwin wrote to EPA Chief of staff Ryan Jackson in the email. "If not out of the question, I would be happy to forward her resume and references (which I would suggest you check - everyone loves her almost as much as I do)."

The former Arizona state official's wife Veronica Darwin was later hired to be a senior adviser to the administrator for Land and Emergency Management. Pruitt later came under fire for using his position at EPA to try to get jobs for close acquaintances, including a clerking internship for his daughter at the White House and a job for his wife opening up a Chick-fil-A franchise.

Wheeler in his email Friday said Henry Darwin will be stepping down from his role and will once again take the title of assistant deputy administrator at EPA. In the role he will "concentrate on the deployment of EPA's Lean Management System (ELMS)" which he will do from Arizona. "Given the amount of time he already spends traveling to the regional offices to deploy ELMS, his relocation to Phoenix should not impact his ability to help us become even more effective in carrying out our very important mission. In addition, Henry will be here at headquarters on a regular basis," Wheeler wrote.

Wheeler announced Veronica Darwin left the agency on Aug. 9. "While at EPA, Veronica managed implementation of the Superfund Task Force recommendations, and led other Administrator priorities like children's health, and the development of the action plan for lead. These key initiatives will remain Administrator priorities, however Veronica's leadership will be greatly missed," wrote Wheeler.

EPA did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of the departures.

Melissa A. Sullivan
Public Liaison Specialist
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202 564 4318
Sullivan.Melissa@epa.gov

Message

From: Sullivan, Melissa [sullivan.melissa@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/26/2019 5:25:57 PM
To: Comm Directors and Alternates [Comm_Directors_and_Alternates@epa.gov]; Regional Public Affairs Directors [Regional_Public_Affairs_Directors@epa.gov]; AO-OCIR Everyone [AOOCIR_Everyone@epa.gov]; AO OPA Internal Communications [AO_OPA_Internal_Communications@epa.gov]; AO OPA Immediate Office [AO_OPA_Immediate_Office@epa.gov]; AO OPA Web Communications [AO_OPA_Web_Communications@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee

In newsroom:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-pushes-back-hills-sexist-attack-epa-employee>

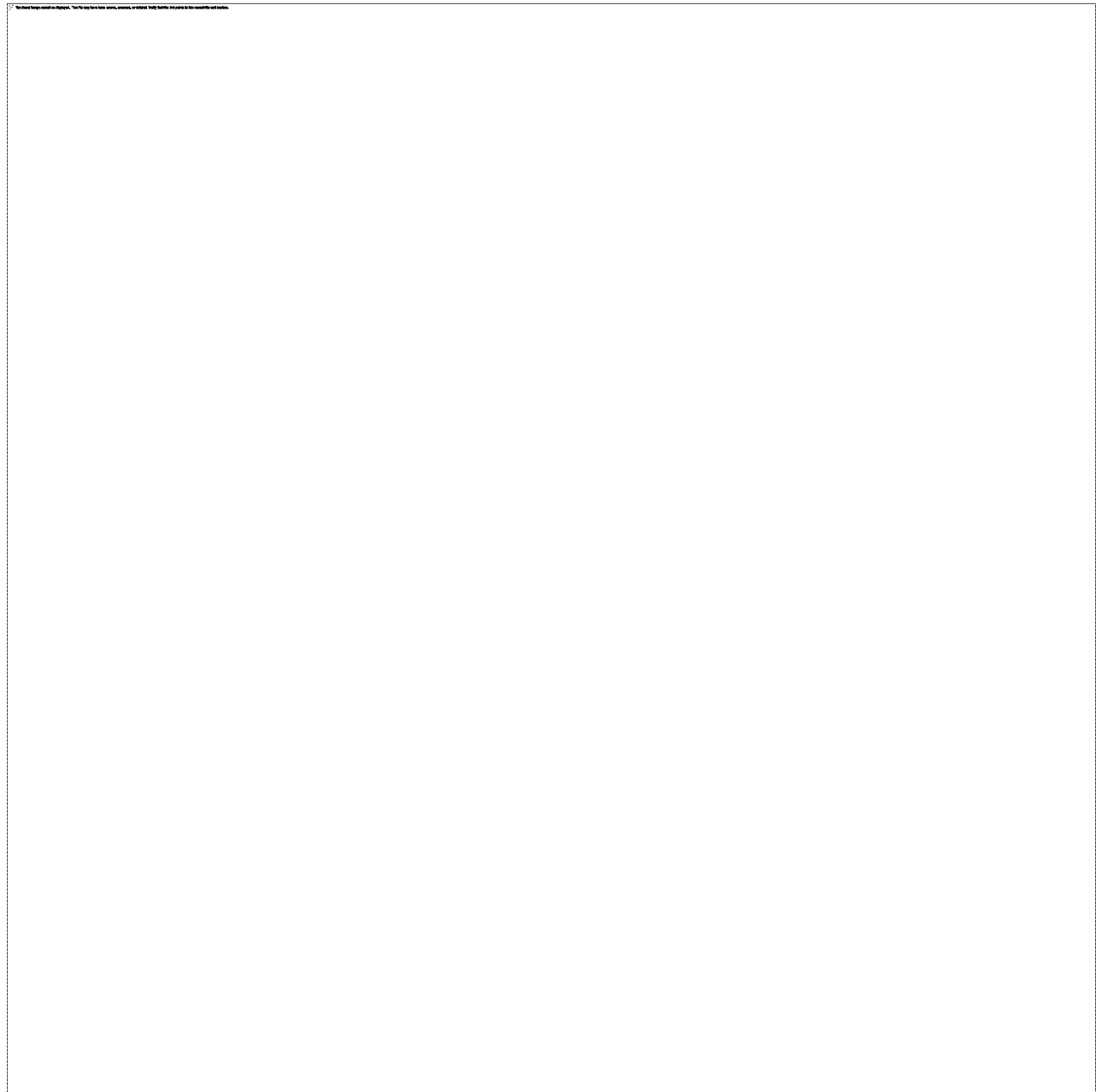
From: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee

Can someone post this to the newsroom.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "EPA Press Office" <press@epa.gov>
Date: August 26, 2019 at 12:53:28 PM EDT
To: "abboud.michael@epa.gov" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA Pushes Back on The Hill's Sexist Attack on EPA Employee
Reply-To: press@epa.gov



EPA Pushes Back on *The Hill's* Sexist Attack on EPA Employee

Late Friday, *The Hill* published an article misrepresenting EPA employees' time at the Agency. In this piece, *The Hill* chose to defame two EPA staffers as "controversial" for the apparent crime of working for the Trump Administration. At no point in the article did *The Hill* back up their headline and explain the supposed "controversy" that warranted this description.

In the article the author chooses to level a sexist attack against Veronica Darwin by referring to her only in relation to her husband, rather than highlighting her 18 years of environmental cleanup experience. Hoping to dupe readers into thinking she has not earned a position at the Agency, it should be noted this is her second time at EPA as she previously served as a career staffer for Region 9 for 7 years. After the Agency referenced her previous environmental experience (which was mentioned in an article cited by the author) in an email, *The Hill* chose to update their story by categorizing her

environmental stewardship disparagingly as "life experience." After further discussion they changed it again to "professional experience."

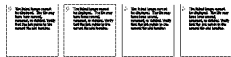
The reporter also chose to ignore the comment from the Agency that answered her question within 5 minutes. Instead she stated that the EPA did not respond.

Henry Darwin, a former head of Arizona DEQ, will assume the position of EPA's Assistant Deputy Administrator where he will continue to implement EPA's Lean Management System and will travel extensively to EPA's regional offices as he has been doing. Veronica Darwin will return to working in state government in Arizona, this is after her considerable and successful work implementing the Superfund Task Force's recommendations and working on the Administrator's priorities dealing with children's health and developing EPA's action plan on lead. This is not controversial work.

Please see the statement below regarding Veronica Darwin's previous professional experience:

"Veronica Darwin has spent more than 18 years working extensively on environmental waste issues that included roles as a compliance officer at EPA's Region 9 office (7 years), working in the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (total of 8 years) and as a physical scientist and regulatory specialist for Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (3 years)."

**Visit The EPA's
Newsroom**



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Unsubscribe](#)

